

from **“Sharing in the American Dream”** by Colin Powell

Selection Test B

Critical Reading *Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

- ____ 1. To whom is Colin Powell referring in this first sentence of his speech?
Over 200 years ago, a group of volunteers gathered on this sacred spot to found a new nation.
- A. citizens of Philadelphia
 - B. the founding fathers of the United States
 - C. his ancestors
 - D. Native Americans from another area
- ____ 2. What problem in our country does Powell describe in “Sharing in the American Dream”?
- A. No one dreams of greatness anymore.
 - B. Some don’t share in the American dream.
 - C. Public schools are failing.
 - D. The recycling program is substandard.
- ____ 3. Which poet does Powell quote near the beginning of his speech?
- A. Robert Frost
 - B. Emily Dickinson
 - C. Langston Hughes
 - D. Billy Collins
- ____ 4. Where did Powell present his speech?
- A. Washington, D.C.
 - B. New York City
 - C. San Francisco
 - D. Philadelphia
- ____ 5. What fact does Powell use in his speech to support his ideas?
- A. Up to 15 million children are at risk.
 - B. Thirty-nine states do not recycle.
 - C. Forty percent of adults are illiterate.
 - D. Too many people lack health insurance.
- ____ 6. What does Powell see as a long-term benefit of serving children?
- A. Children will end up going to college.
 - B. Children are our future leaders.
 - C. Children will grow up to help others.
 - D. Children will know more history.

- ___ 7. In this sentence from “Sharing in the American Dream,” what connotation does *crusade* have, and why?
- And so let us all join in this great crusade.
- A. negative connotation because crusades can be bloody
 - B. positive connotation because crusades involve comradeship
 - C. negative connotation because it suggests too large a sacrifice
 - D. positive connotation because crusades remind us of history
- ___ 8. What factual information does Powell provide about his supporters?
- A. They include people from both parties.
 - B. They come from over forty states.
 - C. They include governors and mayors.
 - D. They are all registered voters.
- ___ 9. What word best describes the feeling Powell creates with the words *pledge* and *promise*?
- A. commitment
 - B. authority
 - C. honesty
 - D. desperation
- ___ 10. In what way does Powell anticipate that the spirit of his idea will spread across the country?
- A. in newspapers
 - B. through individual people
 - C. in television ads
 - D. in peaceful demonstrations
- ___ 11. What phrase best describes the feeling Powell wants to inspire by addressing the audience as “my friends” and referring to the needy as “brothers and sisters”?
- A. friendly gatherings
 - B. casual dinners
 - C. close partnership
 - D. family affection
- ___ 12. What is Powell’s purpose in giving this speech?
- A. He wants to encourage voters to elect him to office.
 - B. He wants to inspire Americans to start an environmental initiative.
 - C. He is appealing to Americans to start faith-based organizations.
 - D. He is appealing to Americans to help those in need.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 13. Which word correctly completes the following sentence?
- Many fans were disappointed when the singer _____ her concert date until next month.
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| A. deferred | C. distracted |
| B. destroyed | D. desolated |

- ___ 14. Which word or phrase is the best definition of *alliance*?
- A. a threatening partnership C. reliance
B. a united group D. a feeling of well-being
- ___ 15. Identify the prepositional phrase in the following sentence.
- Mike enjoys running in the fall because that is when the leaves change color.
- A. because that C. when the leaves change color
B. enjoys running D. in the fall
- ___ 16. Which sentence does *not* contain a prepositional phrase?
- A. The bird flew around the world.
B. My cat sleeps under the bed every day.
C. Matt enjoys singing and playing guitar.
D. The girls ran to the lighthouse today.
- ___ 17. Which word is *not* a synonym for *aspirations*?
- A. hopes B. breaths C. ambitions D. desires

Essay

18. In a topic sentence, tell what Powell was calling for, and give your reaction to his idea. Did Powell inspire you or turn you off? Then, give at least two reasons that explain why you had the reaction you did. The reasons can come from the speech itself or from your personal experience.
19. Colin Powell states that in terms of the American Dream, America is an “imperfect society.” Write an essay in which you first explain what you think Powell means by *the American Dream*. Then, give at least two examples of problems that Powell thinks should be addressed.